

Language Arts- This I Believe

“A Cinderella Story”. At the mention of this movie, most of us would recall the princess, her Prince Charming and their “happily ever after”. However, the one thing I distinctly remember from this movie is the quote the princess lived by – “Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.” This was the quote that saw the princess through her toughest time; this was the quote that spurred her on. But above all, this was the quote that reignited the courage she had always believed in.

Courage to me, isn’t just about not fearing the dark, chewing on insects or watching horror shows. More than these, courage to me is about being able to step out of my comfort zone, being confident of my own abilities and being able to bounce back after setbacks. This to me is real courage, real and true courage I believe in.

For many years, I have stuck to the usual routine. With just studies and tuition classes, my life was a rather boring one. My reason for not taking up new activities was not because of the lack of time, but because I was afraid. Accomplishing anything else besides the ordinary seemed unimaginable. Being doubtful of my skills and talents, I remained in my comfort zone, refusing to venture out.

All these years, I feel like I have been living in a cage, doing things that did not offer any form of excitement or challenge at all. In Secondary two, I was short-listed as a candidate to be a Student Councillor. However, taking up this role meant that I had to step out of my shell and do things that I never imagined that I would do. I decided that this was an opportunity for me to discover what courage lay within me. I took up the challenge which required me to speak publicly, campaign for votes and go through numerous interviews. It turned out that my eagerness to prove my courageous self, allowed me to confidently go through the various interviews and campaigns. At the very end of it all, I succeeded.

Being elected to the Student Council is not just a matter of prestige or achievement. Above all, it is a reminder of how I broke free from the fear of striking out and confidently playing my game. As a student councillor, I have to constantly exercise my creativity,

confidently speak in public and stretch my potential to its fullest. Looking back, it is worth it because this is the game that I have chosen. This is also the game that allowed me to discover who I really am-someone who enjoys public speaking, someone who is never afraid to try new things, someone who is courageous.

I have broken free from the fear and am still playing my game.